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SAN FRANCISCO
ELECTIONS TASK FORCE [ON REDISTRICTING]

LEGAL COMMITTEE

AGENDA AND MINUTES

FEBRUARY 19, 2002

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ELECTIONS TASK FORCE ON REDISTRICTING

John Trasvina
Herbert Donaldson
Rebecca Prozan

NOTICE OF SEPCIAL MEETING OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE

LOCATION: **CITY HALL, ROOM 416**
Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

DATE: **Tuesday, February 19th, 2002**

TIME: **10 am**

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Public Comment will be taken on each item. Public Comment is limited to 3 minutes.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1) CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

2) PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS APPEARING OR NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA THAT ARE WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

Note: The Elections Task Force will hear public comment on each item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item. At this time members of the public may address the Commission on items that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Elections Task Force and that do not appear on the agenda.

3) REPORT BY THE DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY ON THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT, PROPOSITION G, AND OTHER SOURCES TO INSURE THAT REDISTRICTING IS DONE IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

6) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

7) ADJOURNMENT

Know Your Rights Under the Sunshine Ordinance

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review.

The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing devices.

For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the SF Admin. Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Donna Hall, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, City Hall, Room 409, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102-4683. Telephone: (415) 554-7724; Fax: (415) 554-7854; E-mail: Donna_Hall@ci.sf.ca.us. Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's web site at www.ci.sf.ca.us

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Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct. Code § 2.100] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at 30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3900, San Francisco, CA 94102; telephone (415) 581-2300; fax (415) 581-2317 and web site www.sfgov.org/ethics.

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ELECTIONS TASK FORCE LEGAL COMMITTEE

City and County of San Francisco

Herbert Donaldson, Chair
Rebecca Prozan
John Trasvina

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Minutes of the

San Francisco Elections Task Force, Legal Committee Meeting

City Hall, One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 416

February 19th, 2002 at 10 A.M.

I. Call to order and Roll Call

Herbert Donaldson called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Elections Task Force Members Present: Herbert Donaldson and Rebecca Prozan

City Attorney: Chad Jacobs

Dept. of Elections Staff: Elise Johnson and Aura Mendieta

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED:

- Agenda for Legal Committee Meeting 2/19/02 at 10 a.m.
- Memorandum Regarding Legal Requirements for Redistricting

II. Public Comments:

No public comments.

III. Report by the Deputy City Attorney on the Voting Rights Act, Proposition G, and other Sources to insure that Redistricting is done in compliance with all Laws and Regulations (Discussion and Possible Action):

Chad Jacobs reported to the Task Force Members with a memorandum that provided an overview of the legal requirements that govern the redrawing of supervisorial district lines by the Task Force on Redistricting.
Mr. Jacobs commented on three areas to watch when redistricting, which are the US Constitution, Federal Voting Rights Act and the S.F. Charter.
He explained the Voting Rights Act by commenting that the Act protects the voting power of racial and language minorities that is on the memorandum on section B. He also discussed

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communities of interest by reading from the memorandum in section E "Neither the Charter nor the courts have given the term " community of interest " an exact definition. One commentator defined the term to include common geography, social, economic or political history, community organization, religious membership, income level or education". In addition he commented that in San Francisco the gay and lesbian community could also qualify, as a community of interest but the Task Force Members would need to back up this action based on evidence by the community.
Mr. Jacobs suggested that since the memorandum had so much information he would be more than happy to go into a detail discussion with any of the areas whenever it was needed. He also suggested that the Department of Elections send the City Attorneys any copies that have to do with the Elections Task Force to protect that they are in any compliance with the above guidelines.

The Task Force Members agreed that the memorandum is good resource for future projects.

The memorandum by Chad Jacobs dated 2/15/02 is at City Hall in room 48 for public view.

IV. General Public Comments:

Chris Bowman asked Mr. Jacobs about State Legislation from the memorandum.

Chad Jacobs answered that the State and Federal say Voting Rights Act must be complied with 5% and the S.F. Charter couldn't supercede this.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.